

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12957

FROM AMBASSADOR CARTER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS - UN SUBCOMMIS-
SION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF
MINORITIES.

REF: GENEVA 12413

1. WORKING GROUP (WG) ON COMMUNICATIONS COMPLETED ITS
ASSIGNMENT TODAY, 25 AUGUST AND THERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS
AND SOME BAD NEWS.

2. THE GOOD NEWS FIRST: WG IS CITING LARGEST NUMBER (11)
OF COUNTRIES SINCE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED IN 1972. ADDI-
TIONAL POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT IS THAT DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA
IS ONE OF THE ELEVEN NATIONS CITED. BAD NEWS IS THAT USA
WAS CITED FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 1503 PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED.

3. THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES WERE CITED AS A RESULT OF ONE
OR MORE COMMUNICATIONS: ARGENTINA, BOLIVIA, BURMA, CHILE,
DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA, ETHIOPIA, MOROCCO, PARAGUAY, UGANDA,
USA AND URUGUAY.

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4. THE WG WAS AWARE THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
(HRC) IS STUDYING THE SITUATION IN BOLIVIA, CHILE, ETHIOPIA,
UGANDA AND URUGUAY AND SO THE WG RECOMMENDS THAT THE SUB-
COMMISSION TRANSMIT THE APPROPRIATE INFORMATION TO THE
HRC AS A PART OF ITS CONTINUING STUDIES.

5. OF THE TWO COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO DEMOCRATIC KAMPU-CHEA, ONE WAS AUTHORED BY KEO ANN, WHO CLAIMS TO BE THE LAST FREELY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAMBODIA. THE COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE U.S. WAS SUBMITTED BY THE MEMPHIS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COMMUNICATION ALLEGES THAT BLACK AMERICANS ARE SUBJECTED TO DISCRIMINATION AND REPRESSIVE MEASURES PRACTICED BY THE POLICE IN THE MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY TERRITORIES IN TENNESSEE AND IT CITES INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUCH ALLEGED ABUSES BY THE POLICE. THE COMMUNICATION ALSO ALLEGES THAT DUE PROCESS OF LAW IS NOT OBSERVED WITH REGARD TO BLACKS IN MEMPHIS COUNTY AND POINTS OUT THAT APPEALS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES WAS TO NO AVAIL. A RATHER POLEMICAL SPECIAL REPORT ON THE SITUATION WAS PREPARED BY A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE MEMPHIS CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, MEMPHIS COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, BRIDGEWATER-SHELBY COUNTY NAACP AND THE CHURCH OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. THERE WAS NO GOVERNMENT REPLY.

6. READERS SHOULD NOTE THAT THIS WORKING GROUP REPORT IS A PRIVILEGED DOCUMENT AND THAT THIS PROCEDURE WAS CARRIED OUT UNDER THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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